point three

December 1970 one shilling

POINT THREE is the monthly magazine of Toc H

Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment: 1. to build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man; 2. to give personal service; 3. to find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others; 4. to work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God. This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

December 1970

On the cover

You can't keep a good picture down. This month's cover was taken at an outdoor carol service given by Plymstock Choral Society as part of the local Christmas festivities in 1968. The event was organised by Plymstock Toc H and included period costumes, mutton pies, humbugs and cups of hot ginger. This scene was photographed for us by Stanley Green in, appropriately enough, Old Town street.

EDITOR Ken Prideaux-Brune
ASSOC. EDITOR Huw Gibbs

Advertising. Display and classified advertisements are included in this magazine. Full rates and data can be obtained from the editorial office.

point three

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Letters and articles are welcomed but the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement

viewpoint

the purpose which unites us

Those of us who talk about the need for change in Toc H are sometimes accused of destroying the Movement we seek to serve. Toc H, however, is not alone in having to come to terms with the generation gap and with the division between what can perhaps be called the radical and conservative viewpoints. This was brought home to me the other day when reading in the Newsletter published by the Church Missionary Society a report on a conference held last summer to discuss the future role of the CMS.

"On the one hand," said Douglas Webster, one of the speakers at the conference, "there are those who are deeply distressed at any departure from traditional words and usage. A change of vocabulary, of emphasis or of method appears to them to be a betrayal of the Gospel. On the other hand there are those who are convinced that the only hope of making any impact or appeal in today's world lies in a radical departure from all previous norms, a willingness to experiment and to take the very risks that others deplore. If either side were wholly to predominate at this conference I should feel that the unique contribution of CMS to Christian mission was nearing its end.... In a remarkable way, so far as I know unmatched in any other missionary society of any other church, CMS has through the years been able to hold together conservative and radical elements. Such a heritage is not to be discarded lightly."

Do not these few sentences contain an important message for us? Toc H also holds within its ranks both conservative and radical elements. For Toc H, too, this is a "heritage not to be discarded lightly". Instead of deploring the inevitable tensions that this creates we should see them as opportunities for developing real fellowship. Instead of complaining, according to our fancy, about the hotheads who want to change everything or the stick-in-the-muds who refuse to change anything, perhaps we need to realise that Toc H, if it is to retain its character, needs both the hotheads and the stick-in-the-muds. This is what being a mixture of men is all about.

If this is true then what are important are not the words and methods on which we disagree but the basic purposes on which we are united. Here, too, the CMS conference produced insights which may be helpful to us. In some parts of the country there has been controversy over how to work out the social and political implications of our faith, and John Jones' article in our last issue dealt with this concern. It is interesting, therefore, to read that an "overwhelming majority" of those present at the CMS conference were able to agree on the following statement: "CMS is called to loyal witness to the biblical view of mankind, including protesting and acting against racial discrimination and against world poverty, even though this stand may bring CMS unpopularity and financial loss." Can we in Toc H unite in making a similar declaration of faith?

At a deeper level the conference tried to define a Christian style of life appropriate to the present day. "A style of living that tells is one in which simplicity rules, questions are openly faced, and Christ is seen, working in the world as his Father works. It is a life marked by repentance, hope and joy, and lived in the Spirit, in response to a changing world, marked by a solidarity with all men and a longing for their wholeness, and a concern for the right use of God's creation. Prayer is at the heart of this style of living, giving man a resource and a goal. For this we need to reawaken in men the sense of awe and wonder. We need to use the arts and to learn from other cultures. The Christian style of living is response to God's love, faith working through love, which means evangelism in the context of service."

We should perhaps want to word any such statement rather differently, but nonetheless this at least provides guidelines towards the kind of life at which we are aiming. It is an attempt to put into words the purpose which unites us all, whether we like to think of ourselves as conservatives, or radicals, or something in between. We could do worse this Advent than study it.

K.P-B.

News from Council

Photos Skegg Blanchard

Group discussion of policy statement

An innovation which seems to have been generally approved was the decision to split up into small groups for the Saturday afternoon session. The subject for discussion was the policy statement adopted by the Central Executive in October 1969 and published in *Point Three* in December of that year. The group discussion was followed by a discussion in open session on the Sunday morning. This ended without any formal expression of opinion but the clear impression was that the statement, despite what several speakers felt to be the ambiguous wording, was generally approved. The discussion undoubtedly contributed to the feeling of a new unity of purpose which is, in retrospect, the dominant impression of the weekend as a whole.

Jack Trefusis, Chairman, Old House Committee, was one of those who felt that the emphasis in the statement seemed to be on staff rather than on the members. "One could get the impression that we're simply paying people to do things for us," he said. John Trimmer, Spring Parks District, said that the contact with local authorities and other organisations referred to in the statement was "the responsibility and job of the membership, not the staff". Cyril Hill, West Surrey, said that in Surrey the staff member had initiated contacts with other organisations but that this job had now been taken over by the membership.

Several speakers felt that the policy statement made too little reference to the Christian basis of the Movement. "The trouble is that we've all become too apologetic," said Doris Longley, Central Executive candidate. "Please don't let us apologise for our Christian basis."

Central to the policy statement is the assertion that "Toc H should concern itself more than at present with the urban situation" and several speakers underlined this point. Tom Gulliver, Central Executive candidate, asked: "Do we want to work in urban areas? Do we want to work with people rather than for them? In helping people to recover their dignity we may become involved in difficulties with officials. Are we prepared to take this kind of risk? Are we too concerned with what the world thinks?" And he answered his own questions by saying: "We have to give rather more emphasis to urban work". Tim Hulbert, Central Executive candidate, said that Toc H must formulate its plans "within the context of what's happening elsewhere. People at the grass roots are waking up to the fact that they do have rights and that they want to have a say". And he added: "We need to have specialist staff who can bring new skills to the Movement."

The need for more training was mentioned but John Mitchell, Midland Regional staff, urged that information about the needs of people "must not be confused with training in the way we respond to people". We needed the first but not the second. A natural, spontaneous response to people was one of our greatest assets. John also commented on the question of property. He said that the decision to sell a property was not necessarily a retreat. "Our best service for future generations is to do the best we can for our generation. Make sure Toc H is relevant and trust that money and plant and resources will be forthcoming."

Sandy Giles, Director, concluded the discussion by saying that he was sure that the policy statement would continue to be widely discussed.

The Council discussed, both in groups and in open session, the Policy Statement prepared by the Central Executive.

A Resolution urging members to put pressure on local authorities to provide caravan sites for gipsies was passed without dissent.

The Council agreed that the Northern Region "be permitted as great a measure of decentralisation as possible" and instructed the Central Executive to consult with leaders in the Region and work out the details of such a scheme.

The Council approved a Regulation stating that District and Branch officers should serve "for a maximum period of five consecutive years in the same office".

Northern Region decentralisation approved

The Council approved a resolution asking "that the Northern Region be permitted as great a measure of decentralisation as possible within an agreed budget and that the Central Executive consult with the Regional leaders with a view to the experiment commencing forthwith".

In proposing the resolution Ralph Thorne, Central Executive, said that it had been deliberately couched in general terms so that the consultations with the Central Executive could be entirely free to explore the detailed implications. He felt that the suggestion was a logical continuation of the development of Regional meetings of Councillors and the appointment by the Central Executive of Regional committees to make recommendations on staffing policy. He said that the resolution had been widely discussed and had the support of staff, hon. staff, Area Chairmen and HAT's in the Region. He described the aims of the experiment as "increased involvement of the membership in the Region; increased enthusiasm; better communication between the centre and the Region". He thought that the experiment would result in the expansion of the Movement and it was, he said, "a serious effort to carry forward our policy for the '70's".

Among those who opposed the resolution was Derek Davies, Southampton, who asked: "What could they do that they are unable to do at present? There is already ample scope for Regions to develop their own ideas." And John Trimmer added: "Many of us find extreme difficulty in finding the necessary officers to man Area Teams and District Teams without setting up another hierarchy."

Tom Gulliver, Central Executive candidate, said that it was not a question of "Regions versus the centre or of north versus south"; it was a question of "what Toc H is wanting to be in the community". "You can't split authority and responsibility," he said. "Decisions must be made by the people who have to implement them." Jack Weber, North London, saw the experiment as an opportunity for Central Councillors to exercise their function more effectively, and Harry Brier, Central Executive, who seconded the resolution, said "it would be for the benefit of the Movement as a whole. It is an attempt to get a stronger and more enthusiastic membership in the north."

Ralph Thorne, Central Executive.

Eric Hodges talks to John Alleyne (Western Regional staff).

"We stand for the importance of the individual"

Resolution pledging support for gipsies passed without dissent

"We believe in the principle of the importance of the individual at whatever cost," said Derek Whitehead, North Cotswold District, during the debate on gipsies and he clearly spoke for the overwhelming majority of his fellow Councillors. The resolution, noting "with dismay that certain local authorities are seeking ways to evade their responsibilities to provide camping sites for gipsies", and asking branches and Districts "to put pressure on the appropriate local councils to provide sites" was passed without a single vote being cast against it.

John Mitchell, of the Midland Regional staff, was another who made the same point, that "we stand for the importance of the individual", a point which clearly has far wider relevance than the immediate issue under discussion. Bob Knight, Headquarters Padre, added: "A spiritual issue is at stake. Here there is a Christian absolute, and it is Christian absolutes that the world most needs."

Eric Hodges, Swindon, in proposing the resolution, said that despite the fact that Part II of the Caravan Sites Act, requiring local authorities to provide suitable sites for gipsies and other travellers, had been brought into force, some local authorities were attempting to "solve" the problem by simply hounding gipsies out of their area. One authority had gone so far as to vote formally to ignore the Act. Mary Edwards, Bristol, who seconded the resolution, referred to the effect on the children. "Any hopes of educating gipsy children are being frustrated," she said. She added that there seemed to be "an organised attempt to build up hostility against gipsies".

Some Councillors were clearly doubtful whether the Council had any mandate to make a policy statement on a national issue. "We are not the sort

The top table, L to R, Sandy Giles, Marjorie Berry, Doc. Mitchell and Gilbert Francis.

Annual Report presented

In presenting the Annual Report to the Council Sandy Giles, the Director, said: "The new Central Executive will have to consider our committee structure. I was worried by the number of committees when I started. I still am worried but I have not thought of a better way of ensuring that this Movement is run by the membership." He described the past year as "the year of communication, the year of the film, the year of the Festival, and the year of wrestling with the drafting of the Charter".

Marjorie Berry, in seconding the Report, mentioned that the Youth Committee had met in Birmingham throughout the year, the only central committee to meet outside London. She mentioned that next year's holiday weeks at Alison House would be particularly popular as an Arkwright Festival was to be held in Cromford. She also stressed the need for more staff, particularly women staff, and asked Councillors to help the Personnel Committee to find suitable candidates.

George Liddle, the Honorary Treasurer, was unfortunately unable to be present owing to illness but sent a letter to the Council in which he thanked the membership for their increased giving. Keith Rea, Finance Secretary, presented the Accounts in place of George. He called for increased efforts to reach the quotas for contributions to the Family Purse. This would mean that contributions from the membership would provide for 50 per cent of our expenditure, instead of the present 35 per cent. He hoped that more members would be prepared to covenant their subscriptions.

In reply to a question about the amount of capital tied up in property Sandy Giles said that this had been constantly under review throughout the year. The Central Marks Team were conducting a Mark by Mark review.

Alan Brooke, hon. staff, East Anglia, referred to the amount of money raised for other organisations in comparison to the amount raised for the Family Purse. Bob Knight, Headquarters Padre, added: "Many national movements openly and acceptably raise money locally and include a figure for central administration." He suggested that Toc H could quite reasonably do the same.

A MINI-HANDI DANCE PICTURE FEATURE FROM WEYBRIDGE WILL BE ONE OF MANY INTERESTING ITEMS IN THE JANUARY EDITION.

GIPSIES cont'd

of body that meets once a year to pass a resolution asking other people to do things" was how Central Executive candidate Tom Gulliver put it—though he added that he nonetheless supported the resolution. On the other hand another Central Executive candidate, Tim Hulbert, took the view that "Toc H, as an independent, non-political body with a concern for minority groups and individuals is very well placed to put forward views on national issues. If we refuse to take a stand we are the poorer for it."

Public relations the concern of all

"The Publications and Publicity Committee has discussed in some detail the role of a public relations department in Toc H," said Ken Prideaux-Brune, Editorial Secretary, in reporting on action taken in response to a resolution passed at the last Council meeting declaring 1970 an "Information Year". He added that the memorandum produced by the committee had stressed that public relations was the concern of all members, "not just of one or two specialists appointed for the purpose". One of the main tasks of the public relations department was seen as advising local press correspondents and assisting branches and Districts to get their message across to the general public.

Bob Foxcroft, Chairman, Manchester Area, said that the new local radio stations would be glad to have news of Toc H activities. Several Councillors stressed the need for keeping alive the links with Toc H branches overseas.

No change in services' work

A resolution affirming that "this Council has no intention of changing the scope and emphasis of the work of Toc H with members of the armed forces" was passed unanimously. In introducing the resolution Bob Knight said that he was doing so in accordance with an undertaking given at the procedural meetings in July which approved the new Royal Charter.

Five year limit for officers

After considerable discussion the Council approved a regulation limiting the length of time that branch or District officers may serve in the same office to five consecutive years. In proposing this regulation Cyril Rowley pointed out that the Women's Association had had a limit of three years, whereas the men had not had a limit at all. He said that the aim of the regulation was to "promote a more positive and effective plan for succession", and added that such a regulation could on occasions save embarrassment.

The case for the opposition was put by Ken Broadfield. "It would interfere with the liberty of the branch," said Ken. "Members have sufficient intelligence to select the officers they want."

In response to a question it was stressed that the regulation, if approved, would not be retrospective. It would operate from the date of the signing of the Charter. It was also stated that the regulation was intended to apply to padres as well as other officers.

An amendment reducing the time limit to three years was defeated and another amendment, to exempt treasurers from the provisions of the regulation, was also defeated, though very narrowly. Finally the regulation was approved by a comfortable majority.

New sense of confidence

The abiding impression of the Central Council weekend is of a renewed sense of confidence. An important contribution to this was undoubtedly made by the informal session on the Saturday evening when the new film was shown: Elizabeth Bacon, Western Regional staff, spoke of her impressions of Toc H in South Africa, where she had been for three months; Rodney Broomfield, Chairman of the Surrey Projects Committee, spoke about the immensely encouraging developments in the field of projects in Surrey; and Ursula Lefroy spoke about the start of her work in Newcastle. There was a clear feeling that the arid discussions on what is or is not a valid expression of Toc H are a thing of the past. We are united in our vision of the purpose of the Movement and can safely give people the freedom to work out for themselves the best way of implementing that purpose. Confidence, unity and a sense of purpose—these are the dominant impressions which many Councillors took home with them. Such things are intangible but in the long run are of greater significance than any of the specific decisions taken by this first integrated Council. ¶

One of the mixed staff and Councillor groups discuss the policy statement.

NEW FACE 1 Tim Hulbert (26).
Full time community worker. Joined Toc H in 1965. One time Marksman at Brothers' House, Kennington. Spring Park District chairman 1967/69. Keen on Dor Knap/Alison House weekends where his training proves useful. Elected to Central Executive this year.

NEW FACE 2 Doris Longley (40).
Principal of secretarial/commercial agency. Member since 1955. Formerly Central Councillor and Chairman of Wallasey branch.
Also acts as PRO for Merseyside district. Keen on writing and broadcasting. Pioneered Drugs Campaign at WA Central Council. Elected to Central Executive this year.

NEW FACE 3 Simon Allard (31).
Needs no introduction to most members. Formerly S.E. Regional staff. Warden of Croydon centre. Regional leader 1966/68. Now Development Officer for Northampton's Children's Department. Interested in books, antiques, wine and theatre. Joins Tim and Doris as a new Central Executive member this year.

Brian Dickson took the photos'

the pleasure of being mad

Brian Dickson, a Vice-President of Toc H, writes about a long distance walk in Holland, which attracts entrants of all ages from all over the world.

"Third time lucky", but only just, and I was glad to survive the grim conditions on the first day of the Vierdaagse (Four-day Marches) now in their 54th year. I was billetted this time with the Elmans family whose flat is near the Vereeniging where these marches start and finish. Mr. Elmans and his wife and 15 year old daughter José welcomed into their home myself, two Germans in their seventies and also my room mate, Bill Booth, a 44 year old fitter's mate from Kent. Setting forth at 4.30 am. to do his 50 km. (31 mile) trek, he was home one day by 11.30 am. so he must have been quite a sprinter.

On the Tuesday I set off at 7.30 am. with the other veterans and the teenagers of 14-15 years and walked for three hours with de Heer Roders, a schoolmaster of 77 from Volp, near Arnhem. During the war he and his wife and three children were interned by the Japs in three different camps, with no news of each other for four years. Roders thought "The Bridge over the River Kwai" was an excellent film, but little like the real thing. Later on I picked up two young boys from Billericay, one only 12, and half my height, wearing Daddy's fishing hat and following very well in the footsteps of his father who was doing his 50 km. for the fifth time.

But the weather was against us on the first day and we got drenched. Further on I was "picked up" by a sixty year old dame from Delft, who begged a share of my umbrella in the downpour. Later as the wind got up she hugged my arm until, just after Oosterhout, she suddenly stopped outside a cottage and said "I go in here. You wait, yes?" And there was I left standing alone outside, under my umbrella. I never realised how long it takes to spend a Dutch penny! Eventually the dame from Delft and I crossed the Rhine by the Nijmegen bridge in half a gale and we were both very glad to clock-in at 2 pm., very wet indeed.

Blisters

For the other three days we had perfect weather but the conditions on Tuesday had left their mark on many of us and of the 12,431 who started over 1,000 failed to complete the course. Another Dutchman with whom I walked on the first day went along to the Clinic to have his blisters attended to in the evening and had to queue up for 1½ hours. But it is all part of the fun, and one marvels at the diversity of human beings and their natural friendliness in enjoyment or extreme discomfort. So it was in the trench life of 1914-18, but alas how different in Northern Ireland today!

On the second day I set out feeling my years a bit and reminded of the fact that I had broken my leg in '59. My ankle had swollen a little, but I had no blisters (a fashionable complaint) and in that I was lucky. This year I tried out a new technique, walking slowly for four hours before stopping for coffee and my "packed lunch". In this way I kept up with most of the "over seventies" and after setting forth at 7.30 am. I had knocked off the 30 km. (18½ miles) by 2 pm.

On the third day, as I was "coming into the straight" at Nijmegen, a young woman ran out from the crowd and embraced "O'Pa"—to his considerable embarrassment. It was Mevr. Haarman, with whose family I was billetted in 1968. She insisted on my going round to their flat for coffee in the evening.

Incidentally this social side of the Vierdaagse is very strenuous and I found it difficult to fit in my forty-winks in the afternoon. After supper with the Elmans family I used to drink beer at L'Etoile with my Unilever friends, the v. d. Bergs, with young André de Grave who came over from Maidenhead with me, and with Nigel Hill, a Metropolitan policeman who had been commended to me by Geoff and Dot Gilbertson with whom I stayed on Saturday night in London. These gatherings were great fun but we all turned in early.

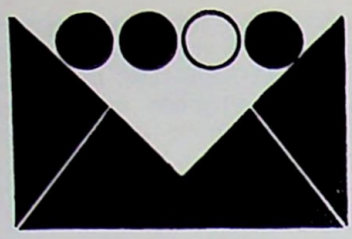
On the final day (Friday), after being welcomed by den Heer Nitschmann, a director of Unilever N.V., I marched in to Nijmegen behind the RAF Pipers who took ten years off my life! The RAF had a fine contingent of 450 from England (including many RAF and WRAF cadets) and at the end of a strenuous week their pipes and drums were better than any pill. Indeed, after receiving the "3" for the ribbon of my bronze star I had a bath and beer, and then went out again to march in with the Unilever contingent, 80 strong.

The end of a happy week I spent with my good friends Josef and Mary Jurjaanz at their home in the village of Sleeuwijk, near Gorinchem, on the banks of the Rhine. This short holiday has been an interesting but rather bewildering experience. To leave strike-ridden England for a few days in Holland which has had no serious industrial strife since the war and whose people seem to be working hard and happily: to watch the ceaseless stream of heavily loaded barges plying between the busy port of Rotterdam and Central Europe: then next day to watch all the teenagers on the train from Harwich eating their "full breakfast at 14s. per head, excluding service", it all made me wonder about our country's future in a highly competitive world.

Flying walker

And I still wonder why people return again and again to Nijmegen, and in Holland train for months beforehand. The numbers were down considerably this year, due, I was told, to political or financial reasons. But in the Unilever party there was a man of 79 walking for the 33rd time: the blind man was there again with his guide, for the 21st year: coming under the railway bridge into Nijmegen I was greeted by the bearded man of 73 from Montreux with his wooden leg (amputated above the knee!), while one of my Dutch friends told me that staying in his hotel was the American who flies over from New York every year, walks his 50 km., and then flies home on the Saturday. I think it must be the friendliness of it all: there is no money in it, but just fun. My classical friends may remember a Latin quotation from Horace which runs: *"Sine amore jocisque nil est jucundum"* which Lord Reith translated a bit freely "Without love and a bit of fun, life is not worth living". How true!

One of the teenagers at breakfast thought I was mad. Well, perhaps, but again to quote the poets (John Donne) "There is a pleasure sure in being mad which none but madmen know".



Tubby on Toc H

The Central Council is over, and there are many thoughts and impressions to be sorted out. But what will surely be uppermost in many minds is Tubby's contribution this morning—Tubby, frail, but indomitable as ever, taking the Communion Service, and afterwards challenging us, in such ringing terms, to stick to our Christian principles—"The base must be held"—reminding us of our need for prayer, and for deepening loyalty to our own churches. "The Marks must be Christian centres; the branches must teach by example the Christian principle of self-sacrifice: the Christian life must not only be lived, but must be seen to be lived." These words, I feel sure, will stay with all who heard them.

Perhaps now, when so much is changing, is a particularly appropriate time for us all to reaffirm our belief in the "eternal realities", and ensure that the base WILL be held!

Thank you, Tubby!

Marcia Nicholson *Orpington, Kent*

The full text of Tubby's talk appears on p. 237.

Chicken or the egg?

Please allow me to reply to a letter from Bill Roberts of Colwyn Bay in the October issue, in which he said that fellowship is more important than service.

I am a comparatively young new member. I do not condemn older members' views, but we younger folk are able to give more service, and in my experience true fellowship can only be gained by working together in service for others.

In a small way I have done a few jobs of service in my three years of disability after a serious illness, and these have brought me greater satisfaction and fellowship than I ever hoped for.

Perhaps in many branches the four points, which to me form the whole meaning of the Movement, are not adhered to, and if service in any large or small form was undertaken by many more branches I think Toc H would be a more advantageous Movement for mankind.

Malcolm Williams *Mold, Flintshire*

The Eternal Realities

So often one hears a member say that he doesn't think much of Toc H these days, that it isn't what it used to be, that one only has to visit the branches to see that, and so on.

But don't let us confuse Toc H, what it stands for, its basic aims, on the one hand, with its interpretation and practical application by members on the other. Toc H is based on ideals which set forth a way of life. Either we believe in and value those ideals, or we do not. They do not change, they are, for Toc H members, the eternal realities. We don't lose faith in them because we fall short of them, we continue to struggle (I hope) towards their attainment. We don't say, "God isn't what He used to be, look at the mess the world is in" nor do we query the value of the teachings of Jesus because we fail to put them into practice.

So, if we have made up our minds that we believe in the precepts of Toc H, though we may criticise our performance as members, volunteers, staff, let us remember that its ideals remain our goal, unchanged, and undiminished by our shortcomings.

John Doran *Birmingham*

Spotlight has been squeezed out because of space shortage. The series will continue in January with a Yorkshire branch.

obituary

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In July: Edgar Poole (Wellingborough). **In August:** Freda A. Bradley (Dover), Gertrude E. Richards (Dover). **In September:** Leslie W. Barr (Highams Park), James B. Cameron (Trowbridge), William McGregor (Kelso), Janie Ranger (Hampden Park), Edward C. Welfare (Wigmore). **In October:** Marian E. Austen (Exmouth), Florence V. Downs (Buckhurst Hill), Dorothy Hayes (Hayes), Eleanor McAndrew (Ealing), Eric J. H. Miller (Glemsford), Annie Scotcher (E. C. & Tower Hill), R. Webb (RHHI, Putney), John T. Wilson (Sanderstead).

We give thanks for their lives.

personality point

JOHN GINGELL

John joined the staff of Toc H in 1961 in a joint appointment with the South London Industrial Mission. His brief was to work with Toc H in South East London and as Chaplain to the Southern Region of British Railways. This must have been one of the most mobile assignments ever devised in Toc H, determined, as Tubby is fond of reminding us, to consecrate mobility. In this joint appointment with S.L.I.M. John drew our attention, as Colin Cuttell had already, to the common cause between Toc H and Industrial Chaplains.

Transferring wholly to Toc H South East London in 1964, John later moved to Liverpool to be Regional padre. As leader of the Northern Regional staff he again travelled very long distances and managed to identify personally with Toc H work from Belfast to Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Christian ministry of men like John Gingell is in the best traditions of Toc H and he has helped the Movement discover its new role as a more versatile and more flexible organisation. He was often critical of some aspects of Toc H and was prepared both to speak and act accordingly. John also had the rare ability to make his point by his silence and by declining to do things he regarded as irrelevant. He will be missed on the Toc H scene.

Now he is vicar of Somercotes in the same deanery as Canon Dick Craig, and close to Alison House. His family will have a long deserved larger share of John's time. We hope to retain John's influence in Toc H as much as his other commitments will allow, and promise him our prayers and good wishes.

It is intended that **Martha,** the mobile caravan, shall be used mainly in the north next year. Already, however, requests for Martha are being received from other parts of the country. Any Districts or Areas in the Northern Region who have plans in mind for Martha are asked to contact Mrs. Nancy Griffiths, 68 Hartland Way, Croydon, CRO 8RF, right away.

The following hon. staff have been appointed in the South Eastern Region:
Len S. Hollidge, 108 Tower View, Shirley, Croydon, CRO 7 PW.
Miss Eileen Bannerman, 67B Croydon Road, Anerley, London, S.E.20.
Rodney E. Broomfield, "The Croft", Redcroft Walk, Cranleigh, Surrey (Tel: Cranleigh 3347).

Colin Campbell left the Public Relations office on October 30, 1970, to take up a Regional staff appointment in the South Eastern Region. He is succeeded as Public Relations Secretary by **Huw Gibbs.**

Christine Page has joined the Western Regional Team as a long term Volunteer. She will be working mainly in Bristol, based on the Bristol Centre, and is likely to be with the Team for about a year.

The Central Executive Committee of ¶ Toc H for 1970-71 will be:
S. E. Allard, Mrs. M. Berry, H. O. Brier, A. J. Brooke, R. E. Broomfield, M. J. Bullock, Mrs. B. Cornick, J.P., Miss D. Edwards, T. A. R. Gulliver, T. J. Hulbert, P. Jacques, D. E. Lockhart, Mrs. D. Longley, H. D. Mills, Dr. S. F. Mitchell, Mrs. M. Nicholson, Miss B. Pugh, Mrs. J. Rauch, R. S. Thorne, J. P. Weber.

Dora Bullivant has resigned as International Secretary with effect from November 30, 1970. She leaves Toc H in order to work with youth in the community through the development of Workshop 42 and other Workshops of a similar nature.

Confirmation of the appointment of the four principal officers until the 1971 Council meeting has been given as follows:

Director: Sir Alexander Giles.

Headquarters Padre: The Rev. A. G. (Bob) Knight.

General Secretary: Gilbert Francis.

Hon. Treasurer: George Liddle.

Nelson Hall, F.C.A., Accountant at headquarters has retired as from November 30. He has been primarily responsible for introducing the mechanised accountancy system.

"well, that's quite a lot I owe you, isn't it?"

breaking new ground

"The explosion of Toc H Hackney"—that was the title given to the annual report of Prideaux House, Hackney, published last June, and the report itself presents a picture of an ever-increasing range of activities and an ever-widening circle of friendships. Toc H can be proud of the contribution which its newest Mark is making, both to the community around it and to the lives of the many individuals who have been caught up in its activities.

The building itself is in almost continuous use. There is a daily luncheon club for the elderly, run in conjunction with the Hackney Welfare Department, which usually lasts until about 4 pm. as the members welcome the opportunity to sit and talk and play games in comfort. On Monday evenings there is the Friendship Club for Senior Citizens, with bingo, sing-songs and light entertainment, and on Thursday evenings there is the rather more riotous Okey-Cokey Club. For a younger age group there is a youth club every Wednesday evening and the after-school-hours play group each afternoon. Both clubs are supervised by local parents. On Friday evenings there is the club for the handicapped, and the West Indian Church of God meets frequently in the house. Within the past month courses have started for volunteers prepared to befriend prisoners and their families.

Guest nights are held regularly at the Mark and attract close on 100 people every time. The guests, local residents, borough councillors and officials, and Toc H members from all over London, are drawn not only by the high calibre of the speakers but also by the friendly atmosphere. Many of them come to the Mark for a meal beforehand—it is not unusual for 60 people to sit down to supper on guest nights. A weekly Open Forum is held when questions such as "What happens when you pop off?" or "Is there a God?" are discussed freely and frankly by residents and neighbours. In addition the Mark frequently offers hospitality to visitors from overseas. During the past few months Prideaux House has accommodated a party from Hackney's "twin town" in Germany, Hann-Münden, and a group of students from Japan. The house has taken to itself a sentence from the ancient Rule of St. Benedict: "Every person of whatever degree admitted to our house in the quality of a guest is to be treated as though he were Jesus Christ himself."

What of the residents who live at the heart of this explosion of activity? For some time Prideaux House faced a problem common to a number of the Marks. Many residents came primarily in search of cheap accommodation, took little or no part in the activities of the house, and moved out into flats of their own as soon as opportunity arose. A year ago the Management Committee decided on what may have appeared a radical departure from tradition but was in fact an attempt to get back to something much closer to the original conception of a Mark. They altered the accommodation so as to be able to offer 25 single rooms and thus attract more mature men and women who would come to live at Prideaux House out of a genuine desire to be involved in the community.

The activities I have listed are, however, but the bare bones of Prideaux House. In themselves they do not explain the contribution the house is making. That contribution should not be measured solely by the number of clubs for old and young, nor by the esteem in which the house is held by the borough council and by local residents, nor even by the judgement of a local doctor that the clubs for the elderly have added years to the lives of some of their members. It should be assessed at a much deeper level in terms of the growth of the individual human beings who are involved in the life of Prideaux House. In an attempt to illustrate this I cannot do better than reproduce a remarkable letter received from a young German in Hann-Münden who spent several weeks in Prideaux House during the summer and who was involved, among other things, in the successful summer play scheme in Hackney.

To conclude this series, which has run throughout the year and has attempted to describe some of the exciting new developments in Toc H, Ken Prideaux-Brune writes about the activities of Prideaux House, Hackney, and about the impact the house has had on those who have participated in its life.

66

After having had a very tiring but nevertheless most enjoyable journey back home, I arrived at Hann-Münden according to schedule at about 6.30 yesterday morning. After that non-existent night, of course I had a good sleep during the whole of yesterday, and here I sit at my table, Thursday morning, hardly able to believe that my stay in London has come to an end, my head full of good memories about the weeks there, and now being confronted with the pleasurable task (however hard to accomplish) to transform my gratefulness into words.

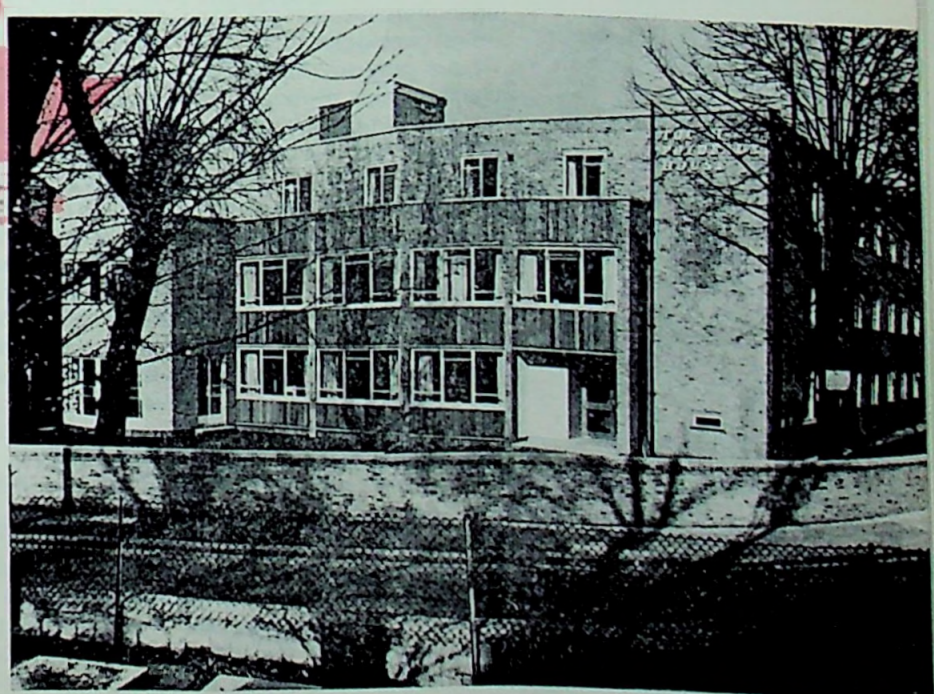
So, it's only an attempt when I now try to express some of the notions I have about the weeks at Prideaux House.

As I said before, the profit, perhaps only too naturally, was greater for me than it was for you, and therefore I was pleased to hear that, in spite of this, I was of some assistance to you.

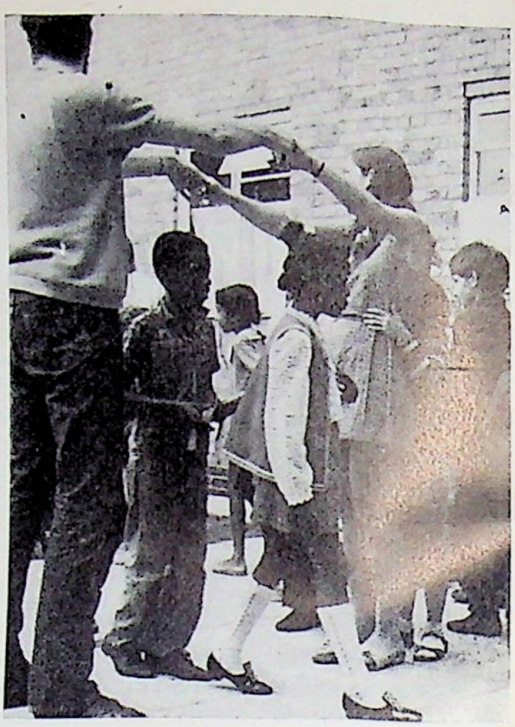
There are innumerable things I saw and learned, not just (as usual) pleasant sights which you busily check off in your notebook of tourist musts, but instead, elemental verities which were driven home to me with an immensely beneficial force. By experiencing a great variety of human joy and misery, deep below the surface appearance, I have now come to understand and face truer aspects of life than I was able to do so far. Admittedly, the sort of life I led so far, was, if anything, perhaps too theoretical, introvert and detached, but it is now a fact that all this information has a deep significance for the mastering of my own future life, as well as for the attitude and approach to what is referred to as "your neighbour".

To begin with (and that flat fact would satisfy many people), I saw the London the normal tourist doesn't see, and the Hackney the normal delegations and parties from Hann-Münden will hardly be able to see. What difference between the glamour and glory of St. Paul's and the Houses of Parliament, and the appalling need, helplessness and destitution, both intellectual and material, I saw. Which makes you at once realise that beauty is but skin deep, and can never be an end. I have had glimpses of "real life", often at the brink of non-existence, but—and this is the important thing—not from the only too high and safe watch tower, too far away to be affected, but I have actually witnessed it face to face, penetrated into it.

The only seeming inference is that we mustn't appease ourselves with the idea that help is needed in far away India where we can't do much anyway (how could we?). The message is: help is required on the spot, next to your house—be ready to throw yourself into it. Whether it is the moving helplessness and wreckage as it was of the V———s, the loneliness of Mrs. W—— or the



Mark III, thought of by some as "the centre of Hackney". When new flats were built nearby a local Government official disclosed that they had been designed to match the Mark's architecture.



Assembly and games beneath an international array of flags at Mark III well illustrate the everyday business of this Centre. This project was a play scheme organised this summer involving volunteers from all over the country. *Photos John Burgess.*

B——s, the inhuman living conditions of that gentleman near Prideaux House, or a drop-out like Mrs. P——: everyone of us is called upon to leave his or her detached home, in order to be there and fulfil the Christian message.

Personally speaking, I am very grateful indeed for having had the opportunity of learning all this. Of course, it was a sort of shock at the beginning, it was scraping uncomfortably near the bone, and I can make no real apologies for it. But I am glad to say, I have grown—shall I say in wisdom?—my character has grown. I have gained deeper insight. On the practical side, I have learned to face it without being destroyed myself, to find the right attitude to social work, to assess the different cases properly. And this is a basic experience, the result of which can be applied to various other cases. For human problems are existent everywhere, in Hann-Münden, in the university on different levels perhaps, but virtually of the same nature. And then, in the academic world I am about to enter, one can't really develop one's abilities as a person unless one is at the same time aware and conscious of these basic problems.

Well, that's quite a lot I owe to you, isn't it? But that's not all.

Of course, there was the experience of Prideaux House itself again. First of all, I was touched by the warm welcome on my arrival, which made it like a homecoming. The next thing that struck me was the family spirit, which means no formal courtesy, one feels safe and secure, one's problems and difficulties can be shared and solved together, you can talk to people like to friends. To put it in a nutshell, it is the atmosphere of liking other people and being liked. Unique is also the way the work is done; no strict working hours, no regulations, no papers, forms, order, but responsible engagement.

I sometimes wonder about what Hackney would be like if Prideaux House was not there. Behind the scenes where the real work is done (it is always the steady engagement rather than the genius which keeps things going) we would find a totally different picture. What community life would be there without all the clubs and the play project? None at all. What about all those people, young and old, you have simply made happy again? Could they have gone to any official body? What about loneliness? Would anybody else care? I am convinced: nobody. As strange as it may appear, the phrase that "Toc H helps to clear up the mess left by our affluent society" is true!

All this, and a good many more things, make Prideaux House a place which sets up standards. For me personally, the importance is only too obvious. And I was very glad and honoured that I was accepted as a member of the family and that we parted as real friends.

two seasonal poems

THE LAMPS OF ADVENT

Holding at bay besieging night
Against the Lord's return,
Like silent sentinels of light,
The Lamps of Advent burn.
Whether He cometh soon or late,
To sleep were shame and sin.
Go, charge the cressets at the gate,
Ere dawn and He ride in.

Ye true folk, tend the faithful fire.
Your Advent Lamps achieve,
Re-kindling Everyman's desire
To serve and to believe.
Cleaving our infidelity,
Light is the Spirit's sword.
No cause can wake humanity,
Without the Watchman's word.

Prayer is the presage of His pact
That He will come in power.
In faith then ask, in hope then act,
Love loyally His hour.
The courage of these stars on earth
Finds favour in His face.
The deepest dark brings dawn to birth,
And grief takes heart of grace.

TUBBY

A thought on finding the rose "Talisman" blooming in December.

Fight on, brave winter rose,
petal brown-edged, and yet aglow,
smiling through the pallid dawn.
Beneath on shiny stem your curved thorns
pierce the fearsome frost of morn.
Hard hardier than the ice and snow
yet suffer soon the secateurs of Spring.

Perchance, when might and main have had their fling,
Polaris night of Minutemen,
from seeming void, a rose will spring,
with thorny crown to challenge nature,
kiss and outlast the hellish dew.
Hard hardier than human stature
barbed beauty's thrust for life anew.

KEITH REA

From everybody at headquarters; a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mind how you drive.

newspoint

YHA Handbook grades Hostels

Graded hostels appear for the first time in the 1971 Youth Hostels Association handbook. There are four grades: special, superior, standard and simple. 157 of the 256 hostels in England and Wales are standard, where members pay from 5s. to 7s. for an overnight stay. Should hostellers have maximum economy in mind there are 68 simple hostels where overnight stays cost less than this average.

In the 25 superior hostels, overnight stays cost from 6s. to 8s. according to age. The London hostels are graded as special and offer exceptional facilities. They list full central heating, as well as free use of baths, showers and laundry, amongst their attractions. The highest fee for an adult staying overnight is only 12s., and it is as low as 6s. for a youngster from between five and sixteen years.

The new YHA Handbook for 1971, with the October-December 1970 supplement, is the key to hostelling in England and Wales. It costs 1s. 5d. including postage, from YHA, Trevelyan House, St. Albans, Herts.

SEAT FOR THE ELDERLY

Hampden Park women's branch in Sussex pay a weekly visit to the residents of Firwood House, an Eastbourne Corporation home for the elderly. In addition to talking to their friends in the home they relieve the staff by making and serving the evening drinks. Now, by means of coffee parties and sales, and through the generous donations of friends of the branch, they have been able to present a seat to the Eastbourne Corporation. This gift has been placed close to Firwood House and will be particularly enjoyed by residents.

SQUARE ONE

There is a purpose for Toc H far greater than any of the people who appear to be running it.

Peter Monie, Toc H Journal, Jan. 1926

"THESE PEOPLE NEED HELP"

Edmonton member sends tape home from Uganda

Students digging out termites nest in the school compound on the outskirts of Kampala.

Highlight of a recent meeting of Edmonton branch in North London was a tape recording from Trevor Pearmain, a young member of the branch, at present teaching at a school on the outskirts of Kampala in Uganda. The tape was played to the branch by Trevor's father who is also a member—he was, in fact, introduced to Toc H by his son.

The school at which Trevor teaches has close on 600 students, many of whom are in their early 20's. All have to pay fees of £15 a term. Finding this money is always a struggle and if the family breadwinner dies it becomes practically impossible. "There are many students who need help," says Trevor on the tape. And he goes on to mention the case of his form captain, "a boy who was a great help to me when I arrived". The boy is aged 24. His father is very old and the family plot of land is worked by an uncle. This uncle has just died and, with only two terms to go before the boy's course ends, the possibility of financial help from home has ceased. "He is not a brilliant student," says Trevor, "he won't go far, but he's the salt of the earth. He will be the person in the village to whom everyone will turn for advice and guidance."

Trevor is impressed with the respect that the young Africans he meets still have for Britain. "They can't understand why Britain considers selling arms to South Africa, but they still look up to her."

The tape also describes a Christian community centre at which Trevor helps in his spare time. The centre, which houses, among other things, a primary school for 200 pupils, was built by the local people themselves, with money contributed from abroad. But the funds ran out before the building was completed and Trevor has been listing some of the things that are still urgently required. Such basic items as electricity—an essential if the building is to be used in the evenings since it is dark by 7 pm all the year round in Uganda—additional classrooms and equipment, a house for the warden and lavatories and wash basins—"We in the church must set some sort of standards in hygiene," comments Trevor.

Uganda's unemployment problem is made worse by the fact that, despite the fertility of the land, no educated African wants to do agricultural work. "Everyone wants an office job," says Trevor. One reason why he is so keen to find money to enable the building of the community centre to go ahead is because he "wants to show them that a white man is quite prepared to take his jacket off and help with manual work; manual work is not 'unclean' ".

Edmonton branch are determined to do what they can to help, and anyone who would like to contribute should contact Herbert Pearmain, 7 Southfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex.

The pain of ridicule

Inspired by an article in *The Link*, the Toc H magazine for Australia, Queenstown branch, South Africa, organised a symposium on the subject "What is youth looking for?"

Under the chairmanship of Ron Macdonald, young people were invited to explain their personal views of life today for teenagers and to arrive at a conclusion to the questioning theme of the discussion.

One report in particular, written by Kate Hay, was outstanding. In it she listed the priority problems facing most teenagers in "order of seriousness". They are: friendships with other young people, anxiety over deportment and physical characteristics, conflict with parents, difficulties with school authorities, brothers and sisters, fear of failure —particularly at school.

Understanding she claims is the key. "There is always a reason for the moodiness and surliness of young people. They suffer intensely from the pain and hurt caused by ridicule."

She asked how parents can meet the needs of their children when they have already failed to eliminate their own problems. "Parents have managed to make a truce with emptiness and learned with maturity to live with it and accept it. They are really living below the expectations they had as teenagers," she concluded.

Monday night is Dorset's music night

Ambitious plans have been announced by the broadcasting service for patients in the South Dorset Hospital, which is organised jointly by Toc H and the hospital's League of Friends. Every Monday night there are three different music programmes, light orchestral and band music, the "progressive music scene" and a weekly survey of the pop music charts—two and a half hours of broadcasting altogether. On Friday nights there is an hour-long magazine programme, followed by "The Week in the South", a round up of the news and sport from the *Dorset Evening Echo*.

RADIO LONDON VISITS "WORKSHOP 42"

With the announcement that Dora Bullivant, formerly International Secretary, is to give her whole time to the development of Workshop 42 who danced "Light" at the Toc H Festival, comes the news that Radio London are to broadcast interviews taped during a recent rehearsal.

The spontaneous remarks of the young people taking part when asked why they had joined the Workshop, indicate the depth of feeling and concern which some have reached in the growth of social conscience. One said, "the basic motive is love. There is so much hate in the world and that is not the solution. It is love which will solve the problems and this we try to show." A boy when asked why he danced said, simply, "for God".

Reels at Area Rally

Entertainment at the Beds, Herts & N. Bucks Area Rally in October was provided by the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club. "Thus inspired," reports *Point Three* Correspondent Betty Hawkins, "our own members and friends took the floor for a country dance or two." During the evening a retirement presentation was made to Phyllis Wolfe. Guest speaker was Gilbert Francis, General Secretary, who spoke on the theme "Toc H—one family". He pointed out that although methods inevitably change in any living movement, and we must be alert to the necessity for this, the underlying fundamentals remain the same. Compassion for people must always be the reason for undertaking a job.

For the third successive year Malvern men's and women's branches entertain a party of physically handicapped children. Transport was provided by Castlecroft branch. The children, there were 33 of them, come from Whitewick Hall school, near Wolverhampton. At the request of the children two parties were formed; one to go to Priory Park and the other to the fete at Dyson Perrins High School. ***Photo: Berrow's Newspapers Limited.***

Buckingham branch have just presented a wheelchair to Chandos Court, flats for the elderly. The Mayor of Buckingham, Councillor Mrs. E. D. Embleton, seems to enjoy christening the chair with Mrs. E. Lillistone (85) in the passenger seat! *Photo: Bucks. Advertiser.*

Mystery parcels sold

The latest money-raising idea of Bletchley, Bucks, women's branch is a parcel post stall. The branch invited friends and supporters to send them a parcel. These were sold at 5s. each, just as they were received. To aid their appeal for these mystery parcels the branch produced a leaflet in verse. The object of the sale?—to raise money for a guide dog for the blind.

SANDY VISITS CONSTABLE DIVISION

Sandy Giles, Director (second right), was the guest of the Constable Division of Toc H recently. With him in this picture are, L to R: Councillor E. Stanley, Chairman of Clacton UDC; Gordon Minshull, Toc H Divisional chairman; Alderman W. Morfey, Mayor of Ipswich; Councillor E. Price, Chairman of Brightlingsea UDC; Margaret Moody, Women's Association District chairman; the Rt. Rev. Leslie Brown, Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. *Photo: East Anglian Times.*

NO SNOBS ON STOWE HILL

According to R. Q. Drayson, Headmaster of Stowe School, Buckinghamshire, the link with Toc H is the best thing that has happened in a long time. "Local people no longer regard the boys as the snobs on the hill and the pupils have benefited a great deal from working among elderly and handicapped people in the community."

He was speaking at the Wolverton Toc H annual dinner, organised by Sydney Swain, and this year the theme was a tribute to the three local schools working with Toc H branches.

W. H. Orchard, Headmaster of the Radcliffe School, proposing the visitors' toast said, "We try to fit young people to take their place in society, to do some of the things that Toc H sought to do. I am proud to have my school associated with this Movement."

150th MILL HILL CONCERT FEATURES RUBINSTEIN

The celebrity concerts run by Mill Hill branch have been a regular feature of the life of North London for several years. On October 31 Mill Hill presented their 150th concert—a recital by the world-famous pianist, Artur Rubinstein. He was only in London for two days but when invited to play for Toc H he immediately agreed. "When he played for us last winter," says Wilf Ransom, organiser of the concerts, "he was so impressed with the happy and informal atmosphere that he went away a firm friend."

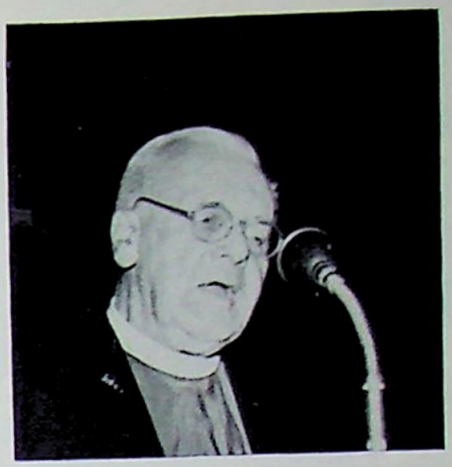
On December 16, Clifford Curzon will be playing two Beethoven piano concertos with the London Mozart Players. Other famous artists who will be appearing in this, Mill Hill's 16th season, include Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Paul Tortelier and the Amadeus String Quartet. Proceeds of the concerts go towards meeting the expenses of the branch's film unit, which arranges film shows at hospitals and homes.

YOUR MOVE!

A recent Chippenham branch debate on pollution ended in deadlock when pipe-smokers agreed not to pollute the branch air if car owners walked to meetings.

SELF-SACRIFICE – THE CHRISTIAN ESSENTIAL

The text of Tubby's remarks to the Central Council



Do not obscure the fact that we operate from a Christian basis – Tubby.

Jack Weber (Central Executive) wearing circular nametag, holds the attention of another of the policy statement discussion groups.

This Council meeting is the start of a new era in which men and women are to be true partners in carrying out the purpose of Toc H. This purpose is already settled and cannot be changed, it is to challenge men and women with the practical Christian life.

From now on women enter into a full share of the manifold activities which Toc H has undertaken through the years and continues to undertake.

Also, from now on the men can learn more at first hand of the greatest of many gifts that women have brought to Toc H—their devotion to prayer. Peter Monie wrote: "Toc H must be as wide as Christianity, as all the Churches present it; it must aim at making deeper and stronger, and not weaker and shallower, the loyalty of each of its members to the Churches which have a right to claim it." We must end within Toc H the situation as existing in the Churches, where for every eight women who come to our Lord's Table, there are only three men.

A reasonable equality of numbers and ages as between men and women is, from now on, a spiritual necessity.

But, let us not forget, one of the prime causes of the foundation of Toc H was to serve mobile men away from their families and their Churches and suffering the loneliness which travelling involves.

You here are the leaders of Toc H. You represent branches and Marks, centres and projects, full-time staff and sparetime members in this country and overseas.

Our branches must teach by example the Christian essential of self-sacrifice in service. I emphasise self-sacrifice. For us (to paraphrase a well-known saying) the Christian life must not only be lived, but must be seen to be lived.

How much more this must be true of the Marks. How desperately they need the leadership of true Christian members and of local Priests who practice week-day Christianity. What greater opportunity is there for a Toc H member than to be a Mark Warden?

A Community Centre can be run by almost anyone. If Toc H runs Centres, they must be Christian Centres. We all know that there are non-Christians who can do work of social service equal to, or better than, work done by Christians but this must not obscure the fact that we operate from a Christian base.

For projects to join in the challenge of a self-sacrificial Christian life, the careful follow-up of all who take part is necessary.

It is futile to bring young people into touch with Toc H in this way, if we do not afterwards maintain contact with them.

Whatever we do—Marks or Centres or branches—must be done in the Toc H way. And if we want things done in the Toc H way, we must have Toc H members to do them. It is good to have experts on the job, but no expert who is new to Toc H can take the place of the member with a solid background of branch or Mark life. Do see to it that such men and women come forward.

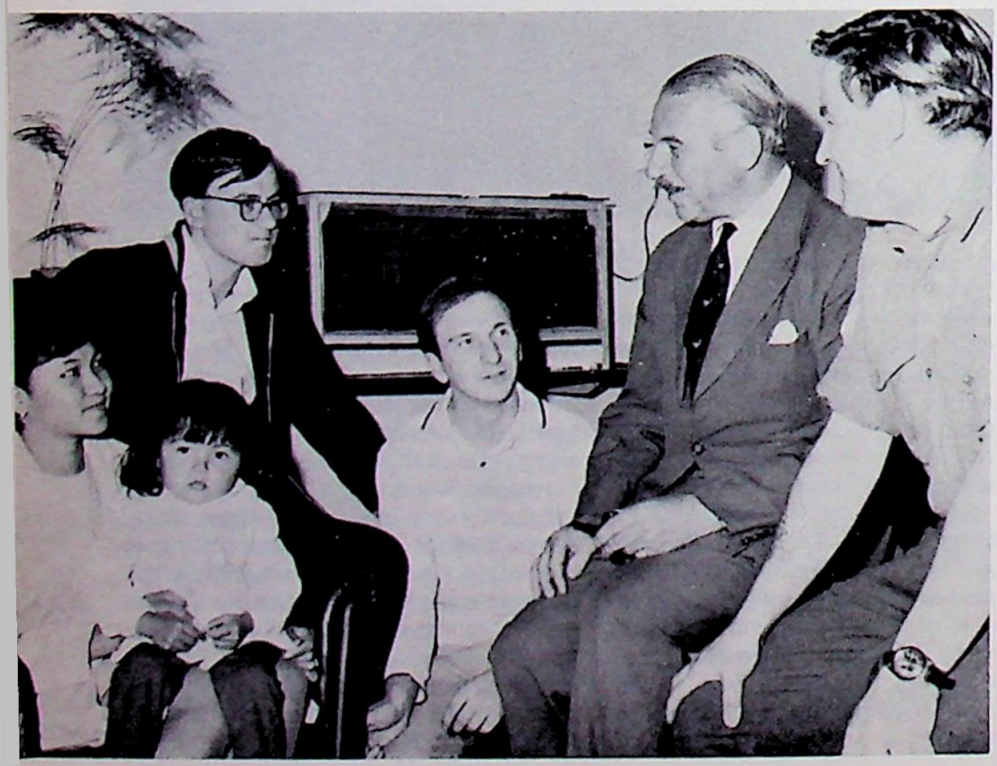
Do not ever neglect your responsibility for Toc H overseas. The least members can do is to take an interest—to read in their journals of their doings, their problems and their hopes and to make and keep contact by overseas correspondence.

Lastly, a word about properties. When a Mark or any other building is judged to be no longer fulfilling the purpose intended for it, must we always sell? Site values now are going up and up. We should let at least the sites, if not the buildings, for a term of years. To sell is to withhold a rich heritage from the Toc H of the future.

Watched by a crowd of about 2,500 a seven-a-side team from Manchester Toc H Rugby football club were beaten in the final of the Glengarth Sevens Tournament by West Park. The main point of this tournament is not to prove who is best at "crunch and groan" but to raise money for a day centre for mentally handicapped children at Glengarth. *Photo: Ashton Reporter.*

BELOW A somewhat quieter scene, with the emphasis more on modelling than mauling. Proceeds from this Liz Charles fashion show, held at Wrcughton's Ridgeway school, were for Toc H. *Photo: Wilts Newspapers.*

picture point



Sir Thomas Butler, Governor of the Tower and former Central Executive member, finds a group of interested listeners while visiting the Toc H Services Clubs on a recent tour. He is seen here at Verden. *Photo: P.R. section, HQ 1st Div.*

Photo: Skegg Blanchard.

The last of the three extracts from John Jones' series of talks at the staff conference is concerned more specifically with the role of the individual member of the staff. Nonetheless what he says has much wider implications.

not servants but friends

An awakened mind is not always to be seen as characteristic of Church history, but there can be no real Gospel gift or blessing of faith without it. Christ's utterances are a continuous challenge to the merely conventional, or othodox, or fatalistic condition of mind and He did not spare ordinary workaday folk the spur of His provocation. On the contrary, He expected a creative response from "unlearned and ignorant men". He believed in the mental and practical powers of working class folk and saw them as worthy of the pure and glorious world of the Kingdom of God which was pressing in upon them on every side. He could be appalled by their lack of faith and insight and unwillingness to think for themselves or to break with traditions which imprisoned them, but His sharpest criticism was against those who, by the privilege of their standing in that society, "shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men" and threw away the key so that they themselves were locked out.

This then, in however rudimentary a form, is the basic quality expected of us as men and women privileged to serve as members of the staff of Toc H. We are not expected to be gifted orators, or executive types, or word perfect in the history and constitution of the Movement. But we are expected to be alive to something meaningful and challenging in the flux of human experience and to know its significant signs and directions in the culture and events of our time. We may discover, as many have thankfully found over the years, that the give and take of our friendships in Toc H inspire and encourage an interest of this kind to some depth and purpose. We begin to share in "the mental fight" which is life affirming. That, in a sense, is as far as we can go in assenting to the commitment. Its details are personal and the scope unlimited.

The swiftness of change

Nevertheless while acknowledging the personal nature of each man's vocation there are, it seems to me, three shared experiences which are a common responsibility of our staff work today. The first is our involvement in social change. We seem to be plunged into a period in human history when the swiftness of change is affecting the relevance of most of our inherited sanctions and motivations. As in the arts, the modes and symbols are like the grass of the field which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven; so in the social concepts and beliefs even the unfulfilled strategies and aims of one decade are abandoned for new slogans and patterns of behaviour and these in turn are phased out in favour of a newer twist of language and policy.

We cannot really be of much use to our Movement if we proceed in blissful unawareness of such radical social change and spare no time to try to understand the moral and political conflicts which are involved. This is the most immediate and urgent challenge and claim upon our discipline of private study and work. In fact this will be seen in the end to be central and significant for Toc H itself for the essential movements, often clouded over by the turbulence and fears of our time, are the positive claims of the true intelligence in men for humanity and community. But the built-up structures of modern society themselves tend rather to the debasement of human values and by panic processes lead towards dictatorships and war. It is coming to be seen more and more clearly that the great values of a true society are fostered and created by small groups of people with common aims and responsibilities. Surely Toc H was never more relevant in its own claims and functions than in this time, if it will throw more of its energies into the valuations and social experience of group activity, encouraging positive self-government, fulfilment and freedom.

Self transcendance

Under the conditions of our commitment I doubt if there is any comparable society expecting so much from its staff as Toc H does. This is not a reason for self-pity but it is a reason for knowing ourselves and the disciplined alternation necessary between work and worship.

"In the beginning was the Word: behold Him to whom Mary listened. And the Word was made flesh: behold Him whom Martha served" (*St. Augustine*). The meaningful and daily pursuits and social concerns of our work demand something from us which in fact is a kind of self-transcendance. How can we do this without the "still centre" and "the quiet time"?

That is some indication of the second of our shared experiences and responsibilities. The third concerns our way of understanding our place as staff men and women within the terms of our employment in Toc H.

Let us make a simple comparison with different kinds of jobs. There are jobs which can fairly be said, in the main, to be purely functional and it is easy to distinguish the worker from the work. We can see this with scientists doing a job of work for governments engaged, let us say, in biological research or some research in physics. A man could, conceivably, engage in that sort of work and persuade himself that it was merely a job for which he was paid and that, outside it, he was free to be himself. As for the use, for good or ill, of his researches and experiments, he could say that it was a matter for state policy decisions for which he was not responsible. We feel instinctively that here something has seriously gone wrong. Bertrand Russell used to see this as a malaise among intellectuals. "A dash of cynicism," he used to say, "enables them to adjust their consciences to the situation." Put quite simply we feel that a revolution in relationship is needed towards a communal responsibility and a communicating fellowship, so that careers can embody creative and constructive impulses and talents. Now Toc H, rightly understood, is a micro-community which tries to do this. It rightly expects from us as staff some spirit of wholeness and genuine concern for the purpose and life of the Movement. It is our chance of life instead of an impersonal, mechanical, and compartmented existence. You can't just put this off and on like changing a suit. Our job is not exhausted as a function; it is a faith and a way of life within a fellowship which can be unbelievably rich in tensions, and unities, and the gift of friends. "Henceforth," says Christ to His disciples, "I call you not servants but friends." If the clear light of this Christian truth in relationship passes from Toc H then from that moment it will cease to be Toc H. ¶

There is only one conclusion to all this and that is the open road and the grace of faith and courage.

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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

ROSEACRE ROSES are shown at Royal Horticultural Halls in London and at the nursery at Bedmond, Hemel Hempstead. For Toc H members and friends reductions up to 12½% from list prices, and profits to Family Purse. Delivery November-March. Send s.a.e. for particulars and show lists, or 1s. for colour catalogue: W. E. Bruton, FRHS, 84 Monks Lane, Newbury, Berks.

RAISE FUNDS QUICKLY, EASILY. Superb ball-pens, combs, brushes, etc., gold-stamped branch name. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford 2.

GIFT TO FAMILY PURSE at low cost, through the Toc H stamp appeal. Send used stamps from home and overseas, and discarded collections, to Charles Wake, 7 Leyburn Grove, Paignton, Devon. This year the appeal has raised £300 for the Family Purse!

HOTEL LYBEER has been a centre for Toc H members since 1945. Charles, a Toc H Builder and well known to many members, welcomes parties and individuals. Charles Vanhove, Hotel Lybeer, Korte Vulderstraat 31, Bruges, Belgium.

POPERINGE, 1971. Toc H party visiting Bruges and Poperinge. Pleasant eight-day holiday. Excursions include Holland. Leave London July 10. Full details from Skegg Blanchard, Toc H, 15 Trinity Square, London EC3N 4BS.

PERRANPORTH, CORNWALL. Toc H chalet available for holidays. Well equipped for up to eight people. From £7 10s per week. Miss Chalmers, Cleveland, Duporth Bay, St. Austell.

BRUGES, BELGIUM. Hotel Jacobs welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city. Within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of coast. Good food and comfortable accommodation in friendly atmosphere. Pleasant restaurant, bar and lounge. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Write for brochure and terms to Mr. Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Baliestraat 1, Bruges, Belgium.

STOWE SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICES, Buckingham, is having an all out drive to equip pensioners with adequate heating. A contribution of Green Shield stamps, Pink stamps, cigarette coupons, etc., however small, would be greatly appreciated. Further details of the scheme from Richard Theobald at the above address or via Buckingham Toc H.

WANTED. Site for 20 ft caravan (preferably near sea). Oldnall, 23 Cedar Road, Bournville B30 1UT.

HOLIDAYS 1971. It is hoped to arrange a continental holiday party next year. Anyone interested should write to Elsa Perrin at the South Eastern Regional Office, Crutched Friars House, London EC3N 2AL. Stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated.

BAOR. There are vacancies for assistant wardens in the Toc H Services Clubs in Germany. Age, say, between 21 and 45, preferably Toc H members; must be able to drive. Details from the Commissioner – Eric Barrington, Toc H, 15 Trinity Square, London EC3N 4BS.

welcome point

The following branches elected new members during October:

19—Blaenau Ffestiniog (w). **13**—Glenrothes (j). **7**—Corwen (m).

6—Accrington (j). **5**—Middlewood (j). **4**—East Sheppey (w).

3—Bailiffe Bridge (w), Harefield (j), Hunstanton (w).

2—Bangor (w), Beaconsfield (m), Central (m), High Brooms (m), Norton-on-Tees (w), Sandown (w).

1—Bala (m), Bedlington (m), Blaenau Ffestiniog (m), Bourne End (m), Brentwood (w), Criccieth (m), Dudley (m), East Leake (m), Felpham (m), Godalming (j), Gorleston & Gt. Yarmouth (m), Hackney (j), Hatfield (w), Ilminster (m), Iver (m), Kendal (m), Kennington (London) (m), Kettering (m), Loddon (m), Margate (m), Moseley (j), Paignton (m), Portmadoc (m), St. John's (Sevenoaks) (m), Sevenoaks (m), Shrewsbury (m), Sittingbourne (w), Uckfield (w), Weston Rhyn (m).

We extend a warm welcome to the 106 new members.